THE
CATHOLIC RADICAL

"...to foster a society based on creed instead of greed." Peter Maurin

February/March 2022 ***Price: For whatever it's worth.***

A Bold Call for Peace

by Most Rev. John C Wester

Editor's Note: The following is the introduction to Living in the Light of Christ's Peace: A Conversation Toward Nuclear Disarmament, *a January 11, 2022 pastoral letter written by the Archbishop of Santa Fe, New Mexico. The entire text is at: https://archdiosf.org/living-in-the-light-of-christs-peace.*

Brian Kavanagh

In September 2017, I traveled to Japan and visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It was a somber, sobering experience as I realized that on August 6, 1945, humanity crossed the line into the darkness of the nuclear age. We can now kill billions of people instantly and even destroy the world in a flash. The reality of this evil becomes very real as you walk through Hiroshima and Nagasaki today.

In one exhibit, I read about school children in Hiroshima who, on that fateful morning in August 1945, ran to the windows, attracted by a bright light. I wonder how many were running to their deaths, either instantaneously incinerated or dying later in agonizing pain. Normally, light brings new life and clearer vision. Not that day. Sadly, the light generated by the first nuclear explosion used in war brought only destruction and death.

Then I remembered when I was a schoolboy in October 1962 during the Cuban Missile Crisis. I recall looking up at the sky on my way home from school to see if any Russian planes were about to drop atomic bombs on me. I became so frightened that I ran all the way home. Those Japanese school children had no time to be afraid. They had no time to run and there was no home left to run to. Later, when I walked through the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and stood before the incinerated Genbaku Dome, it dawned on me that I had not really thought about the possibility of nuclear war since then or felt fear over the nuclear threat. Those childhood days when we practiced for nuclear war by hiding under our desks or locating the nearest bomb shelter are dim memories. But Hiroshima and Nagasaki brought them all back vividly.

Within a day or two of my return to New Mexico, some friends came to visit me in Santa Fe. I took them to the New Mexico History Museum. There I saw a different exhibit with a different story. With Hiroshima and Nagasaki still fresh in my mind, I read about the Manhattan Project, the development of the Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories, and the creation of the nuclear bombs that were eventually dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I viewed these displays much differently than I had on a previous visit, before I had been to Japan. It was eerie to

(Continued on Page 5)

$768 Billion for War

by Scott Schaeffer-Duffy

Until 1947, the United States Department of Defense was called "The Department of War." With the advent of the always-at-the-ready-for-conflict Cold War, the traditional demilitarization that followed the American wars was discarded. Only eleven years later, President Dwight Eisenhower warned the American people that a "military-industrial complex" had been formed which would self-perpetuate and deplete resources that should go to civilian needs. The end of World War II, the last declared US war, made no difference on war making or military spending. The fall of the Soviet Union and end of the Cold War led many Americans to expect major cuts in the Pentagon's budget and a "peace dividend" of increased spending on human needs, but the War on Terror obliterated those hopes.

And now, after the official end of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars, the expectation of many Biden voters for substantial cuts in military spending have not materialized. According to *Forbes* magazine, the US spent $300 million a day on the war in Afghanistan. While the war was still being fought, the 2021 US military budget was $705.3 billion. Despite the end of the war, the Pentagon asked for a $9.7 billion increase for 2022, but Congress allocated, and President Biden agreed, to $768 billion, an increase of $62.7 billion, $24 billion more than President Biden requested. We now spend $1.4 million a minute on war, even though we claim to have ended our longest war. Our military spending is higher than the military budgets of the next

(Continued on Page 2)

$ for War

(Continued from Page 1)

eleven highest-spending nations combined, double what China, spends.

For a cut of 10.4% of this year's military budget, Americans could enjoy debt-free, college education. If we cut 40%, which still leaves us the largest military spender in the world, every single US citizen could get a one-time check of $2,327.27 and a family of four could receive $9,309. If these funds were exclusively given to low-income Americans, they could each receive much larger checks which would alleviate shameful levels of poverty.

Given that the US did not win the wars in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan, how can bloated military spending be

justified? Our NATO allies spend much lower percentages of their budgets on the military and their citizens enjoy much higher standards of living, free healthcare, and less homelessness. What does the US gain from controlling 750 military bases in 80 countries? Are we better off than the average German, Swede, or Dane? Not even close.

LockHeed Martin, Raytheon, Boeing, and BAE Systems, Northrup Gruman, General Dynamics received $241 billion in military contracts last year. The CEO of Massachusetts-based Raytheon Corporation, Gregory Hayes was paid $1.4 million in salary with $2.5 million in stock options. That's $3.8 million more than the average wage earner in the state.

A great deal of Raytheon's income comes from sales of its Patriot Missile defenses system. Raytheon boasted that, during the 1991 Gulf War, Patriot missiles demolished 45 of 47 Scud missiles fired by Iraq on Israel. A subsequent Pentagon study lowered that figure to 23 and the Congressional Research Service could only verify one absolute hit. At a cost of more than $1 million per missile, imagine what else Israel may have done to avert war with the billions it spent on Patriots.

While the possible threat of war continues to drive bloated military spending, the certain threat of the climate change emergency goes virtually unaddressed. Environmentalists say that every dollar we do not spend on abating climate change in 2022 will cost us six dollars in ten years and be impossible to reverse at any cost in 20 years. The urgency of cutting US military spending and moving our country away from fossil fuels go hand in hand.

The largest recipient of campaign donations from the coal, oil, and gas corporations, Senator Joe Manchin, says he cannot support the anti-climate change provisions and the cost of social spending in President Biden's Build Back Better bill, but he had no problem giving record-breaking billions to the Pentagon. This kind of environmental suicide alongside catastrophically wasteful and deadly military spending can no longer be tolerated.

Typically, US mid-term elections see gains for the opposition party. In the last election, Americans chose to reject President Trump, who vigorously opposed efforts to address the climate emergency. If we as a species are to survive and thrive, we need to do our very best to see that more, not less, action is taken on climate change and disarmament by incoming politicians. Our children and grandchildren's future depends on it. Ω

Uruguay Goes Green

Editor's Note; The following article is excerpted from a 11/7/21 report by the US Department of Commerce.

During the period from 2000 to 2020, Uruguay dramatically shifted its energy matrix from petroleum-based electricity generation to renewable sources. The country currently generates over 98 percent of all electricity from renewable sources, primarily wind and hydropower. Uruguay is now one of the most electrified countries in the hemisphere, with 99.9 percent of homes receiving electricity. Uruguay often generates an electricity surplus due to an excess of wind-power. The country is seeking to identify additional domestic uses for the excess electricity and potentially increase exports to Argentina and Brazil. Today, Uruguay is one of the world leaders in wind power production, alongside Denmark, Ireland, and Germany.

The installed capacity of distributed solar generation was 2.69 Mega Watts (MW) in 2014. However it reached 25 MW in 2020, up from 21.3 MW in 2019.

There are tax incentives encouraging companies to transition vehicle fleets to electric vehicles.... Uruguay also developed a network of electric vehicle charging stations distributed around the country....Ω

Vol. 38, No. 4 **THE** **February/March 2022**

CATHOLIC **RADICAL**

Published on 100% post-consumer recycled paper every two months by:

The Saints Francis & Thérèse Catholic Worker Community

52 Mason Street, Worcester, MA 01610

Telephone: (508) 753-3588, 753-3089 Email:theresecw2@gmail.com

Founded in 1933 by Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin, the Catholic Worker is a lay movement serving the poor while denouncing injustice and proclaiming peace. We are not tax exempt. We rely entirely on the generosity of our supporters to meet our expenses. We welcome volunteers, letters, poetry, articles, artwork, and donations.

Historic Nurses' Strike Ends

by Aimee Albani RN

Editor's Note: On January 3, 2022, nurses from Worcester's Saint Vincent Hospital voted overwhelmingly to accept a new contract and end the longest nurses' strike in Massachusetts history. Despite the fact that Tenet Corporation, the for-profit company that owns Saint Vincent's, spent millions of dollars trying to break the strike, members of the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA) persevered 305 days, until their primary demand for safe-staffing levels had been met.

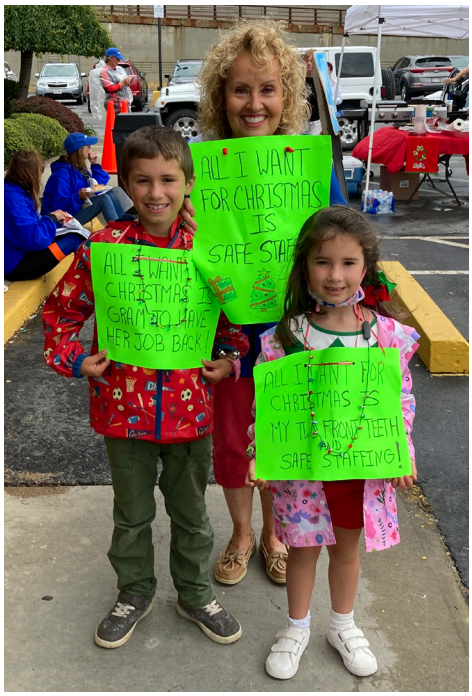
A nurse at Saint Vincent's since 2004, the author of the following reflection has worked in the hospital's Progressive Care Unit for the past nine years.

For a year and a half prior to the strike, nurses pleaded with the hospital administration to increase staffing, to no avail. Many employees left due to better staffing, pay, and benefits at other area hospitals, and management didn't replace them, which made the situation worse. During the first round of covid, management furloughed staff instead of allowing them to work, which placed patients, nurses, and nurses' families at risk. They also didn't provide sufficient protective equipment like other area hospitals. If we caught covid, they refused to pay us sick time, saying we might have caught the virus "at the market" or elsewhere outside the hospital. In general, since Tenet acquired St. V's, we've had poor quality equipment and supplies.

We voted to strike because Tenet refused to bend on a lot of these issues. They did offer us better pay and benefits, but wouldn't bend on staffing, which we considered the final straw.

Unlike some nurses, I really didn't have to make any major sacrifices during the strike because my husband has a good job and my children are grown. I just had to make sure I was careful with my spending. For me, it was more the anxiety and uncertainty of it all.

To keep the picket line covered, we had to be there quite often. I spent a lot of time writing letters to representatives, Tenet executives, Bishop McManus, and newspapers, anywhere I thought might make a difference and end the strike. We also had to attend many MNA meetings to keep in the loop and strategize. Later in the strike, lots of us had to get out of our


ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS SAFE STAFF
ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS GRAM TO HAVE HER JOB BACK
ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS MY TWO FRONT TEETH AND SAFE STAFFING!

Aimee & grandchildren. Aimee's sign says, "All I want for Christmas is safe staffing." Her grandson wants his "Gram to have her job back!", and her granddaughter wants her "two front teeth and safe staffing!"

comfort zones and get other jobs to support ourselves and families. This was a huge challenge for me since I hadn't been in this situation for years. Applying for jobs is a lot different than what I was used to, and it was very anxiety-producing.

What gave me hope during the strike was my faith in God. I knew we had a righteous cause, and I felt we had enough people striking with us who had that same faith as well as a true concern for one another. We were all praying. Several times I was wrong about when the strike would end, but I always believed God would move resources to allow us to get our previous jobs back and settle the strike. We even had picket signs made saying, "Faith over Fear." The general public, politicians, and organizations supported us with kind words, donations, food, raffles, interfaith vigils, and even just honking their horns to give us hope. I want to thank the Catholic Workers for their exorcism of corporate greed. Every time I think of it, I cannot help but laugh! I loved it!

We spent a lot of time on the picket line trying to lift each other up when we were down. We relied on one another a great deal, becoming stronger in the process. This was one of the many blessings we got from being on strike.

I think the replacement nurses asking for a vote to remove the MNA is just another strategy in Tenet's plan to break the union. It is extremely disappointing to me that, after we overwhelmingly ratified the contract, they still can't acccept it and move forward, uniting all the nurses together to rebuild the hospital's previous reputation for the good of their employees as well as the community.

I feel the MNA did a wonderful job negotiating our contract and ensuring our former positions against a company that continues to reveal its true motives. I have much trepidation going back into work because we nurses, rolling up our sleeves and working to stabilize the hospital, are going to be met with more angst. I will continue to keep looking up for my strength and perseverance. I believe my colleagues will as well.

As far as what this means for other hospital workers, I would hope it gives them hope that they can overcome, although it will not be easy. I hope the public will pay attention when legislation for safer staffing comes to a vote so that the law would force the issue like it did for the ICU ratios in the past. This strike did expose the truth of the nursing shortage as well as unsafe staffing in much of healthcare. I hope people will not let the propaganda bought by huge hospital conglomerates muddy the truth on this issue. As hard-fought as this strike was, I feel proud and honored that we stood up for what we truly believe is right for our patients and the dignity of our profession! Ω

A Miracle

by Claire Schaeffer-Duffy

Rome's rules of canonization require at least one miracle be attributed to the holy soul under consideration for sainthood. New York City activist Brendan Fay predicted one for Dorothy Day. I ran into him December 8th in New York City (NYC) after the Mass at Saint Patrick's Cathedral advancing her cause for canonization. Brendan was all aglow anticipating an upcoming vote on the City Council, an occasion that could use Dorothy's prayers.

The next day, the Council adopted a comprehensive package of nuclear disarmament legislation. Here are a few details. The Council authorized NYC's comptroller to instruct public employee funds to divest from companies involved in the production and maintenance of nuclear weapons, an action that stands to impact $475 million of the $266.7 billion fund. They declared NYC a Nuclear Free Zone and supported plans to establish an

ICAN's logo

advisory committee to educate the public and make policy recommendations for nuclear disarmament. NYC also signed the ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) Cities Pledge joining hundreds of cities in the US and around the world that call on their national governments to ratify the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

I doubt Rome will count the December 9th vote as a miracle. It is remarkable, nonetheless, given New York's nuclear legacy. The Manhattan Project is where the atomic bomb, which killed over 200,000 Japanese, was conceived. During the Cold War, New York housed approximately 200 nuclear warheads in military bases that ringed the city.

New York is also where Americans have challenged our country's faith in nuclearism. In the 1950's, Dorothy and other Catholic Workers went to jail rather than participate in civil defense drills. 122 nations assembled here to draft the TPNW in July 2017. The treaty galvanized the city's disarmament activists, including Brendan. After its creation, they organized hundreds of people to testify at public hearings, lit up NYC skyscrapers when the TPNW became international law, and even held a New Year's Day polar plunge for nuclear disarmament in the icy cold Atlantic Ocean.

It took several years of hard work to realize the December 9th vote. I imagine Dorothy smiling over the accomplishment.

The NYC legislative model can serve as a template for other cities and towns. To learn more visit: https://icanw.org.new_york_city_joins_ican_cities_appeal. Ω

Christ Jesus Victor

by Nancy Small

Editor's Note: The author wrote this poem on the day after the January 6, 2021 assault on the US Capitol.

With head bowed he leans
on a wooden cross beam
on his shoulder lie hands
of believers who stand
round him praying
while displaying
flags and banners paying
homage to their Lord
and their ruler untoward
Pro Jesus, Pro Trump
scaling barriers they jump
setting mayhem in motion
with frenzied emotion
and deadly devotion
a stunned nation quakes
as its government shakes
fearing what's now at stake
Will the dawn resurrect
what this mob insurrects?

Have you Christians not heard
in your churches the Word
that the Christ who was slain
did not murder or maim
gave his life in the name
of God's kin-dom of peace
where all violence shall cease
where the bound shall be free
and the blind finally see
that to follow the Christ
is to lay down your life
not with carnage or hate
but with love as the gate
to a world free from fear
and a vision writ clear
every soul, every race
reflects God's holy face
help the weak become strong
make the outcast belong
toward each other be kind
in your hearts daily find
strength enough to pursue
justice long overdue
bearing bravely the light
that persists through the night
seeking help from on high
till Christ Victor is nigh? Ω

Call for Peace

(Continued from Page 1)

see photos of Little Boy and Fat Man, the nicknames given to the actual Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs, when I had just been in those very places only weeks before. I knew now what those bombs did to our Japanese brothers and sisters.

When my friends and I stepped outside into our beautiful city, I noticed how peaceful it was. Santa Fe—the City of the Holy Faith of Saint Francis of Assisi, a faith which inspired him to be an instrument of Christ's peace to the world—is home to Nuestra Señora de la Paz, Our Lady of Peace. I felt disturbed by our history, the long, dark legacy of building the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs, and many thousands of nuclear weapons since then. We are the people who designed and built these weapons of mass destruction. We were the first to use them. We must be the people to dismantle them and make sure they are never used again.

That day in Santa Fe, it seemed blasphemous to me that we could create a weapon with the potential to destroy our entire planet, our common home, given to us by a loving God to be cared for and nurtured so that all might live in God's peace. It became clear to me that the Archdiocese of Santa Fe must be part of a strong peace initiative, one that would help make sure that these weapons would never be used again, that we would never destroy our planet or one another, that instead we would clean up our poisoned land and fund global institutions that resolve all international conflicts through nonviolent means such as dialogue and negotiation.

Historically, the Archdiocese of Santa Fe has been part of a peace initiative, especially given our role in the creation and manufacture of nuclear weapons. I believe that it is time to rejuvenate that peace work. I think we need to sustain a serious conversation in New Mexico and across the nation about nuclear disarmament. We can no longer deny or ignore the dangerous predicament we have created for ourselves. We need to start talking about it with one another, all of us, and figure out concrete steps toward abolishing nuclear weapons and ending the nuclear threat. If we care about humanity, if we care about our planet, if we care about the God of peace and human conscience, then we must start a public conversation on these urgent questions and find a new path toward nuclear disarmament.

There are many who have engaged in this important conversation through their writing and witness. I think of my friend Father Louis Vitale, OFM, the former Franciscan provincial of the Santa Barbara Province, who has spent over 50 years speaking out for nuclear disarmament, organizing peace vigils, and engaging in

nonviolent civil disobedience actions at the Nevada nuclear weapons test site. He was one of the founders of Pace e Bene, an organization that develops educational programs for nonviolent living with an emphasis on spirituality.

I also think of Sister Megan Rice, who died in 2021 at the age of 91 and spent several years in federal prison for entering the nuclear weapons facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, while calling for nuclear disarmament. During her widely publicized sentencing, Sister Megan called the U.S. bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki "the greatest shame in history." She said her only guilt was that she had waited 70 years before speaking out publicly and taking action against nuclear weapons.

There are other amazing prophetic people around the world speaking out for peace. In this letter, I am calling for a renewed commitment to the cause of peace in our world and specifically, to engage a spirited conversation that will lead to nuclear disarmament throughout our world. If we do not, then who will? If not now, then when? As I believe Dietrich Bonhoeffer said during World War II, "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act." We cannot sit back and be silent in the face of our ongoing preparations for nuclear war. Instead, we need to talk with each other about how we can abolish these weapons and ensure that they are never used again.

In this letter, I hope to encourage such a conversation here in New Mexico and around the country. I offer these reflections prayerfully, in a spirit of peace, to share my thoughts and concerns in the hope that one day we will stop building these weapons, disarm our state and our world, and embark on a new future without the fear and terror of the nuclear threat.

I will reflect on Pope Francis' recent pilgrimage to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and his recent calls for nuclear disarmament, as well as other statements by the Second Vatican Council, other popes, and the U.S. Conference of Catholic of Bishops. I will look at the teachings and example of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who called us to be peacemakers and to love our enemies. I will reflect upon the current situation of nuclear weapons and why we urgently need to begin the process of nuclear disarmament now, and I will suggest some possible solutions and concrete actions that we can all take.

I hope and pray that this state-wide dialogue will be part of a national and even international conversation that will help pave the way toward nuclear disarmament. I invite us all to turn in prayer to the God of peace and ask for the gift of nuclear disarmament. I invite us to turn to one another in peace and talk and listen to each other about the ongoing development of these weapons and how we might end the work of nuclear war preparation. I invite us to step into the light of Christ and walk together toward a new future of peace, a new promised land of peace, a new culture of peace and nonviolence where we all might learn to live in peace as sisters and brothers on this beautiful planet, our common home. Ω

Doctor Fauci in 1527

During a pandemic in the 16th century, German theologian Martin Luther commented on people's behavior:

"They are much too rash and reckless, tempting God and disregarding everything which might counteract death and the plague. They disdain the use of medicines; they do not avoid places and persons infected by the plague, but lightheartedly make sport of it and wish to prove how independent they are. They say that it is God's punishment; if he wants to protect them he can do so without medicines or our carefulness. This is not trusting God but tempting him. God has created medicines and provided us with intelligence to guard and take good care of the body so that we can live in good health."

Luther went on to warn that those who "make no use of intelligence or medicine... [can] become a suicide in God's eyes."

"It is even more shameful for a person to pay no heed to his own body and to fail to protect it against the plague the best he is able, and then to infect and poison others who might have remained alive if he had taken care of his body as he should have. He is thus responsible before God for his neighbor's death and is a murderer many times over." Ω

Kids Say the Darndest Things

Editor's Notes: The following quotes are from Claire & Scott Schaeffer-Duffy's grandchildren May & Frances Duffy, Theo & Fiona Sliwoski.

When Theo was asked if he knew when his fourth birthday party was going to be, he replied "In four more sleeps." He paused and then asked, "Will my voice change?"

Harvey Ball

During an online religion class, when Theo and Fiona were asked, "Who is Mary?", Theo replied, "Mary is Mary." When he was asked, "What was Mary's relationship to Jesus?", he replied, "We have no idea."

Claire asked Theo, "Have you been to Boston?" He replied, "Is it outside my world?"

Theo told his mom, "I found a cool stick in the park. I'm going to make a slingshot out of it to shoot Dad in his belly for his birthday."

At her father's 36th birthday party, Frances told him, "I'm very proud of you for being so old."

After her mom encouraged Fiona to remember to use the potty, Fiona said, "God will help me go potty. When God has to go, he goes right away. He uses the potty seat, and then he washes his hands."

When Theo wanted May to apologize for something, she said, "I don't like to talk about the past." Claire asked, "Are we talking about the recent past or something that happened six months ago?" "It was five minutes ago," May replied.

In December, Fiona said, "I have 15 children. The father is dead. He was killed by a reindeer. It was so sad."

While their mom, Theo, and Fiona were sitting on the couch watching television, with Theo on Grace's lap and Fiona by her side, Grace said to Fiona, "Don't pick your nose," to which she replied, "If Theo gets to be on your lap, I get to pick my nose." Ω

Letters

Hi Scott,

Finally got around to finishing your latest *Catholic Radical*. I have to say the last article was the best. "When I think of my many faults and of how generous God has been to me, it becomes obvious that I should give to others with abandon."

Thank you for yours and Claire's continuing witness.

Paul del Junco
Toronto, Canada

Editor's Note: Three long-time readers objected to Scott Schaeffer-Duffy's decision to describe a person who begged from him as a "tall Black man." (These readers did not want their comments published.) Scott agrees with his critics that the fellow's insistence, not his race or height, was the relevant point in the "Mason Street Musings." Greater care needs to be exercised to root out racism and negative racial stereotypes.

When Scott shared the readers' concerns with Paul del Junco, he sent this reply:

It's funny, Scott, (and I'm not terrible Woke) but I remember vaguely thinking you were going to get in trouble for that! Strictly speaking, if you were going to be totally unprejudiced, you would say simply that a "person" asked you for money. But naturally you want to add some color (no pun intended) to your story. It's true that if you say a "tall black man" you're adding an unavoidable tone of threat in our culture...

I have to tell you a rather funny and embarrassing story that happened about five years ago. It was late fall and I was warming up my school bus pre-dawn in the dark in a large almost deserted parking lot. I was the only one there. While doing my circle check, about 50 meters away I noticed a man get out of a car and start

walking quickly toward me. He was tall and black! A thrill of fear went through me. I thought, "What could he want with me?" I just froze to the spot and waited to see what would happen. When he was about 10 meters from me, he gave me a big smile and extended his hand. Finally, I recognized him. He was the manager for my bus company division. He was there to hand out a $5 Tim Horton gift certificate for bus driver appreciation week! He wanted to be there in person to greet all of us at our buses.

I guess that makes me a racist, and I'm actually being sincere. Fear of the other is the root of all prejudice, of the loss of our common humanity.

Paul del Junco

> Not everything that is faced
> can be changed,
> but nothing can be changed
> until it is faced.
>
> *James Baldwin*

Hi, Claire & Scott,
Your article ["A Fighting Hope"], Claire, was again the best!!

I was perhaps the best runner in high school, but have never given a damn about winning — I simply liked to run as fast as I could. We run as we're supposed to — and it is fun, Scott. Run till you can't. That's what I did. Love to you all.

Joan Thomas
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Claire & Scott,
Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh! Happy New Year [in Irish].

I have to say the October/November issue of your magazine was the best yet. I cite the chiding of the Church in not being proactive against issues other than abortion as being relevant. Closer to home, the article on the strike at Saint Vincent's Hospital and your personal involvement in the exorcism has only increased my admiration for your mission.

Last night, I had a dream where I was scolding a man who was speaking against "socialism." I brought to his attention the deeds of another of my heroines, Frances Perkins in the Roosevelt Administration, for establishing Social Security and other things he benefited from. At wake up time, I forget how he reacted.

Thank God the Church hierarchy is finally recognizing Dorothy Day as a flawed human who started a great movement.

I rejoice with the unexpected resolution to the Saint Vincent's strike. My good friend feels better about going there for her second knee procedure.

Phil Brewer
Rutland, Massachusetts

A month or so ago, I finally got to Scott Schaeffer-Duffy's **Haunted! A Catholic Worker Mystery**. As it turned out, it was a page-turner. A fascinating juxtaposition of long-distance running, the legacy of his town, a troublesome ghost, and lots of social and racial justice issues.

Scott's book came at an interesting junction, since it speaks often of racial matters. About the same time-frame, just weeks before, I had read James Cone's **The Cross and the Lynching Tree** followed by Howard Thurmond's **Jesus and the Disinherited**. Both distinguished African-American theologians.

Allen Johnson
Dunmore, WestVirginia

I read your "work of fiction," **Murder on Mott Street**, this afternoon, a pleasant excursion. I did meet Dorothy Day twice, to speak at fair length with her, but I never met [Dorothy's daughter] Tamar. You made

Franz Masereel

her come alive for me. And, of course, I never met Peter Maurin, either. He too becomes alive in your work.

Father Tom Fenlon
New York, New York

Dear Claire and Dear Scott,
...*The Catholic Radical* in my mailbox always restarts my day with a smile.

Susan Schaller
Corvallis, Oregon

Catholic Worker Calendar

February (TBA) - Sliding: On a snowy Saturday, we invite folks, young and old, to join us at Worcester's Green Hill Park 11-Noon or longer. For Info: 508 753-3588

February 2 & 16 , March 9 & 3 - Evening Prayer: Join us for prayer & Taize chant. 52 Mason Street. Refreshments to follow. 7 PM

March 2 - Readings from *The Light of Christ's Peace*: Join us to hear and discuss Archbishop Wester's pastoral letter calling for nuclear disarmament. 52 Mason Street. Refreshments to follow. 6:30 PM

PLEASE NOTE: ATTENDEES OF ALL INDOOR EVENTS MUST BE FULLY VACCINATED.

Mason Street Musings

Twice a month, our friends Teresa Wheeler, Fred and Kathy Dowd come over for communal Evening Prayer said around the kitchen table. Barely two breaths after the last note of the Salve Regina is sung, we delve into animated discussions about events of the day. Do not imagine us reflectively discerning the times according to the Scriptures just read. It's lots of expressions of shock and disbelief at the decline of democracy, the rise of right-wing extremism, and the outrageous behavior of our fellow Americans. *Can you believe this? Can you believe that?* Like much of the country, we are good at reacting.

I am as guilty as the next one in the habit. But all this lamenting about how divided we are as a society and how doomed is our future gets my dander up. If these are the only views we have of ourselves, won't they become self-fulfilling prophecies?

In late December, we received a fund-raising appeal from Christians for the Mountains (CFTM), a group in Appalachia that describes themselves as dedicated to addressing environmental injustice "while drawing upon God's leading to bring hope and restoration."

Ian MacNab

They work with religious and secular organizations and were part of an alliance of 50 organizations that stopped the construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The 600-mile line was scheduled to run from Harrison County, West Virginia to Robeson County, North Carolina. Had it been built, it would have generated climate-destroying greenhouse gasses and harmed the terrain of the pristine mountains these Christians love. The CFTM team spent more than 2,000 volunteer hours over the past five years fighting the line.

Years earlier, the group organized college students to conduct in-person health surveys of families in Appalachia adversely affected by mountaintop removal. Data from these surveys informed the Appalachian Community Health Emergency ACT (ACHE) which Representative John Yarmuth of Kentucky introduced in Congress last spring. "For too long, reckless mountaintop removal practices have wreaked havoc on the air, water, and land throughout our communities," he said, "yet to this day, there has not been a federal health study completed on the risks associated with the practice." It took ordinary folk to do the studying. If enacted, ACHE would lead to a moratorium on permits for new mountaintop removal.

Aren't these efforts at care for Creation a marvel?

"**The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord**," the Psalmist says. It can take practice to see this goodness, which includes more than earth's natural beauty. It also takes soul stamina for the goodness I am referring to often, throbs in harsh and cruel places. The glory observed won't be as unequivocal as a sunset in Minnesota's North Country. We humans are complicated, as they say, full of ego as well as holy courage.

But we are God's instruments. "Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours," Saint Teresa of Avila says. Tarnished though we me be, the divine melodies play through us. Amid the cacophony of the present-day, it's important to stop and hear the music.

Ω **Claire**

SS. Francis & Thérèse Catholic Worker
52 Mason Street
Worcester, MA, USA 01610
(508) 753-3588 & (508) 753-3089

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WORCESTER, MA
PERMIT NO. 271